AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A solid oral heparin tablet composition which has a melting point of 25°C or higher, comprising a continuous lipid component comprising at least one ~~or more~~ polar lipid~~lipids~~, at least one ~~or more~~ non-polar lipid~~lipids~~, optionally at least one ~~or several~~ of water and mono-to trivalent alcohol in an amount of up to 15% by weight of the composition, and heparin selected from the group consisting of native heparin and fractioned heparin.

2. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1, ~~substantially~~ consisting essentially of at least one ~~or more~~ polar lipid~~lipids~~, at least one ~~or more~~ non-polar lipid~~lipids~~, and said heparin.

3. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1, ~~substantially~~ consisting essentially of at least one ~~or more~~ polar lipid~~lipids~~, at least one ~~or more~~ non-polar lipid~~lipids~~, water up to 15% by weight, and said heparin.

4. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1 ~~any of claims 1-3~~, wherein said at least one ~~or more~~ polar ~~lipids are~~ lipid is a membrane lipid~~lipids~~.

5. (currently amended) The composition of claim 4, wherein said at least one ~~or more~~ polar ~~lipids~~ lipid is a glycolipid ~~are selected from glycolipids~~.

6. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1~~any of claims 1-5~~, wherein said at least one ~~or more~~ non-polar lipid is a ~~lipids are~~ glyceride ~~esters~~ ester of a fatty acid~~acids~~ or is of vegetable origin.

7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) The composition of claim [[7]] 6, wherein said at least one ~~or more~~ non-polar ~~lipids include~~ lipid comprises triglycerides ~~selected~~ from palmkernel oil fractions obtained by ~~commercial~~ fractionation of palmkernel oil or is a C_8-C_{10} monoglyceride or C_{16}-C_{18} monoglyceride.

9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1, ~~comprising~~ water and at least one ~~or more of~~ mono-to trivalent alcohol is present.

11. (currently amended) The composition of claim 10, ~~wherein the monovalent alcohol is~~ containing ethanol and optionally, a divalent to trivalent alcohol is selected from the group consisting of 1,2-propylene glycol, low molecular weight polyethylene glycol and glycerol.

12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) The composition of claim ~~12~~11, comprising up to 5% by weight of water.

14. (currently amended) The composition of claim 4, wherein said at least one ~~or more~~ polar lipid~~s are selected from phospholipids~~lipid is a phospholipid.

15. (currently amended) A process for the production of an oral heparin tablet which has a melting point of from 25°C and higher, comprising:

- mixing at least one ~~or several~~ polar lipids with at least one ~~or several~~ non-polar lipids at a first temperature at which at least one of said components is in a liquid state,

- dissolving, in the liquid continuous lipid phase obtained, heparin selected from the group consisting of native heparin and fractionated heparin,

- cooling the solution of heparin in the lipid phase or portions thereof to a second temperature at which it solidifies,

- ~~forming tablets by carrying out~~ wherein the cooling ~~step with~~ comprises forming tablets with aliquots of the solution or from a bulk ~~product~~ obtained ~~in~~ by the cooling ~~step~~.

16. (currently amended) The process of claim ~~17~~15, wherein said first temperature is 25°C ~~and~~ or higher.

17. (currently amended) The process of claim 15 ~~or 16~~, wherein said solution is cooled in bulk~~, comprising forming~~ and formed into a powderous product ~~from said bulk product~~.

18. (currently amended) The process of claim 15 ~~or 16~~, wherein said solution is fed to a nozzle and sprayed on a surface or into a cavity having a temperature below the melting point of the liquid, thereby forming a powderous product.

19. (currently amended) A process for the production of an oral heparin tablet comprising compressing the powderous product of claim 17 ~~or 18~~ into a tablet.

20 - 21. (canceled)

22. (Original) The process of claim 15, wherein the cooling is carried out by pouring an aliquot of said solution into a mould, thereby forming a tablet.

23. (canceled)

24. (currently amended) The process of claim ~~23~~15, comprising coating said tablet with at least one ~~or several~~ powderous pharmaceutical excipients.

25. (currently amended) The process of claim 24, wherein said ~~one or several~~ excipients ~~are~~ is mechanically worked into the surface of the tablet so as to form a coating.

26. (currently amended) ~~An~~The oral heparin tablet of claim 1 ~~essentially~~ consisting essentially of ~~a~~the continuous lipid phase, and optionally comprising an inert nucleus, ~~wherein the lipid phase may optionally comprise one or several of water and mono-to trivalent alcohol in an amount of up to 15% by weight of the lipid phase, the composition having a melting point of 25°C or higher and comprising one or more polar lipid components in combination with one or more non-polar lipid components, and heparin selected from native heparin and fractionated heparin~~.

27. (currently amended) ~~An~~The oral heparin tablet of claim 1, having at least one pharmaceutical excipient coating thereon ~~comprising a core which has a melting point of 25°C or higher, the core consisting of a continuous lipid phase~~ and optionally comprising an inert nucleus~~, the continuous lipid phase comprising one or several polar lipid components, one or several non-polar lipid components, wherein the lipid phase may optionally comprise one or several of water and mono- to trivalent alcohol in an amount of up to 15% by weight of the lipid~~

~~phase, and heparin selected from native heparin and fractionated heparin, further comprising a coat consisting of pharmaceutical excipients~~.

28. (canceled)

29. (currently amended) A method of treating or preventing a condition amenable to treatment or prevention by administration of a pharmacologically effective dose of heparin, characterized in that the heparin is administered in form of the tablet of claim 26~~-28~~.

30. (currently amended) The method of claim 29, wherein said condition is ~~one of~~ a member of the group consisting of deep venous thrombosis, blood clots, pulmonary embolism, unstable angina, atrial fibrillation, acute myocardial infarction, coronary angioplasty, stent placement, coronary artery bypass graft, pulmonary embolism, and stroke.